

For Immediate Release

Sealaska Corporation

May 18, 2005

Contact:

Todd P. Antioquia,

Sealaska Corporation

Director of Corporate Communications

(907) 723-4129

Cindy Schumaker,

Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center

(907) 459-3880

Sealaska donates \$100,000 to Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center

May 18, 2005 Juneau, Alaska – Sealaska Corporation will donate \$100,000 to the Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center. The Fairbanks facility, scheduled to open in January 2008, represents a synergistic undertaking to launch a new kind of visitors' center for Alaska and was inspired by the life and contributions of the late Morris Thompson.

“Mr. Thompson dedicated his life to the people of Alaska, bridging cultural gaps through his diplomacy and vision for the future,” said Sealaska Board Chair, Albert Kookesh. “Centers like this will be an important element throughout the Alaska landscape. Facilities that honor our indigenous cultures and that encourage all Alaskans to work together are vital for our state and should be embraced and supported widely.”

Thompson was one of Alaska's prominent Native business leaders. He was the youngest commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, held leadership positions in the Alaska Federation of Natives and Commonwealth North, as well as a cabinet position in the Hickel administration. In 1985 he took over the helm of Doyon, Limited, leading that corporation to become one of the most profitable Alaska Native Corporations.

Sealaska's gift was announced May 18 at the center's fund raising kickoff in Washington DC. Alaska's congressional delegation including Congressman Don Young, Senator Ted Stevens and Senator Lisa Murkowski hosted the event. “The Morris Thompson Center will reflect the values and ideas that Morris was dedicated to in a way that provides long-term benefits to the interior, honors Alaska Native Culture, and continues to build bridges between Alaska Native and non-Native people – just as Morris did in his lifetime,” stated Senator Stevens at the event.

According to Stevens the Alaska delegation has secured more than \$15 million in federal funds towards the projects estimated \$26 million cost. The state of Alaska has provided \$1 million to date.

Sealaska's contribution followed a lead gift made by Doyon, Limited of \$500,000 according to Cindy Schumaker, Project Coordinator for the Center. "Outreach continues to the other regional corporations and organizations for the project," she said. "If the momentum continues we will meet our target date for opening this important facility."

The center will include visitor's information, trip planning services, over 10,000 square feet of cultural exhibits, a theatre, an artisans' workshop and demonstration area, an Elders' gathering area, cultural and environmental education classrooms and outdoor recreational space. Individuals and corporations should visit www.morrithompsoncenter.org for information on making donations to the center.

Sealaska Corporation was formed in 1971 as a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and represents 17,500 shareholders as the Southeast Regional Native Corporation. For additional information please visit www.sealaska.com.

###